Statement

Grouping of Essential Items according to price rise

a. Inflation>15%	Onions, Masur, Groundnut Oil Rape & Mustard Oil
b. Inflation 5%—15%	Arhar, Jowar, Potatoes, Milk, Rice, Hydrogenated vanaspati, Mutton, Household laundry soap
c. Inflation<5%	Wheat, Atta, Bajra, Chillies (Dry), Coking coal, Safety Matches
d. Inflation 0%	Kerosene, Long cloth/sheeting, Dhoties, saris & voils
e. Negative Inflation	Gram, Salt, Moong, Urad, Tea, Fish-Inland, coconut-oil, Gur, Sugar

Containment of inflation remains high on the agenda of the Government. Anti-inflationary policies of the government include strict fiscal discipline, rationalization of duties of essential items, effective supply-demand management of essential commodities through liberal tariff and trade policies, and procurement through public sector agencies. Central Issue Price of wheat and rice under targeted public distribution system has been kept stable since July 2002 to provide relief to the BPL and APL families.

Credit flow to corporate sector

3742. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has asked banks to step up credit flow to specific corporate sector; and

(b) if so, whether this constitutes direct lending which would potentially have negative financial impact on the banks in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Additional quantum of pension for old aged pensioners

3743. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sixth Central Pay Commission has recommended 20 per cent additional quantum of pension to Central Government old pensioners who would be attaining the age of 80 years;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to extend this benefit of 20 per cent basic pension to its present pensioners who have attained the age of 75 years because of health and other financial problems being faced by them; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto and the date from which it would become effective?